

September 2002

## BALBOA PARK GETS \$6 MILLION FOR RESTORATION PROJECTS

### EFFORTS TO LOBBY GOVERNOR DAVIS PAY OFF IN BIG WAY

In what I proudly referred to as a “historic day” for Balboa Park, on Friday, September 13, California Governor Gray Davis announced the allocation of \$6 million in state funds to restore several Balboa Park facilities and allow for the construction of a Veterans Memorial Garden in the park. I was especially pleased because the restoration of Balboa Park—which is entirely within Council District Three—has been a top priority of mine since taking office in 2000.



Councilmember Atkins with Governor Gray Davis and City Park and Recreation Director Ellie Oppenheim following the Governor's announcement of \$6 million for Balboa Park restoration projects.

And it truly was a historic day, not only for Balboa Park and the Third Council District, but for all of San Diego. This generous allocation of \$6 million that Governor Davis has committed will go a long way toward restoring the vibrancy to some of our greatest treasures in the park. I have been working hard with Governor Davis and his staff for almost two years now, both here in San Diego and up in Sacramento, to impress upon them how important Balboa Park is to San Diegans and the millions of tourists who visit our City annually. Many of the older buildings are in drastic need of repair, and the deferred maintenance costs are truly staggering. So to receive a \$6 million allotment from the State of California to start working on some of these projects is truly encouraging.

I can't thank Governor Davis and his staff enough for responding to our requests for help.



The ornate—but crumbling—facade of the Museum of Art will receive extensive repairs under the grant.



The \$6 million will help fund the following projects:

#### ***Major repairs to the ornamentation on the historic Museum of Art building:***

This historic building was designed by William Templeton Johnson and constructed in 1926 to house the City's civic arts collection. The building's facade is crumbling and in need of major repairs. To ensure the safety of the public from the possibility that pieces of the building may fall off, an unsightly wooden cover has been placed over the public walkway, obscuring some of the building's marvelous architectural details. The facade will be repaired, the cover removed, and the museum restored to its original grandeur. *(Continued on next page)*

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### ***Major repairs to the ornamentation on the historic Casa del Prado building:***

Similar to the situation at the Museum of Art, the ornamentation on the facade of the Casa del Prado is separating from the building. Major repairs are necessary to save this celebrated example of Spanish Colonial architecture.



The facade of the famed Casa del Prado, which is separating from the mail building, will also be restored



### ***Exterior painting and stucco repair for the historic California Tower:***

The California Tower is a San Diego icon and embodies the image of Balboa Park. This landmark building, constructed for the 1915 California-Panama Exposition, is in need of extensive stucco repair, restoration of historic tile work, and paint.



### ***Reconstruction of the West Arcade:***



The Museum of Man (above) will once again be connected to the Plaza de Panama when the West Arcade is restored.

The original West Arcade, a covered walkway connecting the Plaza de Panama to the Museum of Man, was constructed for the 1915 Exposition. It was removed in the 1960s because it was in disrepair. Plans have recently been approved by the San Diego City Council for its reconstruction, using the original architectural schematics. The completion of the West Arcade will restore the last of the four arcades that line the Prado.

### ***Balboa Park Veterans Memorial Garden:***

This proposed memorial will honor the San Diego veterans who served in the armed forces of the United States. The funds will help with three components: 1) a Medal of Honor Walk, which is a garden pathway between the current Veterans Memorial Center and the proposed B-24 Memorial; (2) a B-24 Memorial, which will be a bronze casting of the famous B-24 Liberator that was manufactured here in San Diego; and (3) an expanded garden area.

This substantial commitment of funds reaffirms the State's and City's support for Balboa Park and underscores the importance of forging relationships between our local and state elected officials. This just goes to show that if we stay focused on what our region's needs are, and we aggressively pursue funding at both the State and Federal levels, we can effectuate positive change for our communities, sometimes quicker than we ever could have imagined.

## **NORTH PARK DUMPSTER DAY SEPT. 28TH**

I and members of my staff will be joining the North Park Community Association (NPCA) and residents of North Park for the NPCA's annual Dumpster Day and Alley Clean Up on Saturday, September 28th. This is a free community recycling and alley clean-up event.

Dumpsters will be located at two locations. The dumpsters at the Union Bank parking lot at 30th Street and North Park Way will handle general discards and metal, while the dumpsters at the Von's parking lot at 30th and Howard will handle general discards and greenery. The event begins at 8am, and ends at noon--or earlier if the dumpsters fill up, so if you have items you want to discard, arrive early!

Accepted items include appliances (except refrigerators and air conditioners), carpeting, junk furniture, mattresses, wood (bundled and up to 6 feet long), bundled yard trimmings, palm fronds, and other non-recyclables.

Items that will not be accepted include hazardous waste--things like paint, motor oil, cleaners, pesticides/insecticides, and batteries. For info on how to dispose of these types of items, call 858/694-7000. Also not accepted is electronic waste, such as televisions, personal computers, printers, computer monitors. For info on discarding these items, call 1-800-253-2687 or visit the [www.earth911.org](http://www.earth911.org). Also, please do not bring tires, construction or demolition waste, and absolutely no waste from businesses. You are also asked to separate waste from recyclable and reusable items.

Pickup trucks and drivers are still needed for the clean up. For more information or to volunteer, call Lorraine Halac at 619/295-7498, or Email [lhalac@aol.com](mailto:lhalac@aol.com).

## DISTRICT 3 FIRST TO PLEDGE FUNDS TO KEEP WINTER SHELTER OPEN

### \$25K IN CDBG FUNDS TO HELP WITH BUDGET SHORTFALL

In mid-September, when I first learned of a \$200,000 funding gap for the City's homeless programs, including a \$100,000 shortfall for the Winter Shelter, I felt I should immediately step forward to commit funds to ensure that San Diego families would not be out on the streets this winter. Toward this end, I pledged \$25,000 of our District Three Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, and in so doing, challenged my fellow councilmembers to join me in helping fill the funding shortfall.

To think of people being on the streets without shelter is heart-wrenching. In light of our already existing housing crisis, we can't afford to lose services. While the relocated San Diego Family Shelter in Cortez Hill—which is scheduled to open later this year—will meet much of the demand for homeless families year-round, there will still be an overflow of families that need to be housed this winter. That's why it was imperative that we come through with these funds before the cold weather is upon us. This funding will help keep homeless families—even those that aren't served by the new shelter—out of the cold this winter.

The budget shortfall is primarily a result of the City not receiving two \$100,000 state grants which it had received annually in the past. When the City budget for the current fiscal year was prepared, \$100,000 of the anticipated grant funds were included for the Winter Shelter, and \$100,000 was earmarked for the year-round family transitional living shelter being constructed in Cortez Hill.

I'm pleased to report that Councilmembers Byron Wear and Donna Frye both matched our \$25,000 contribution, and First District Councilmember Scott Peters was able to come up with \$5,000. Mayor Murphy also came forward with \$25,000 to help wipe out the remaining shortfall for the Winter Shelter. It's crucial that the five of us were able to pull together the funds to keep the Winter Shelter open. We'll continue to do whatever we can to keep homeless families safe and warm during the winter.

In light of the County's current budget woes, I'm hopeful they will be able to contribute the same level of operational services to back up the City's program. Given that there seem to be no real plans for winter shelters in North County, East County, or South Bay, this coming winter could be even more difficult for the City. Due to this, we anticipate an increase in the number of homeless people coming into the City to seek shelter, and both the Winter Shelter and the Cortez Hill family shelter will be affected. We all need to step up to the plate to solve this problem.

## DISTRICT 3 POTHOLE PROGRAM ON TRACK TO EXCEED GOAL

### 226 POTHOLE FILLED IN JUST SEVEN WEEKS

Just last month I told you about an exciting new pothole program in Council District Three, and the first such program in the City's history. The program, paid for with funds allocated to District Three during the 2002 budget deliberations, utilizes the talents of apprentice workers with the San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council, in conjunction with the City's Street Maintenance Department, in an effort to get more potholes filled quicker.

When we first set up the three-month pilot program, we set an ambitious goal of 300 potholes, or 100 per month. As of September 13th, I'm pleased to report that in just seven weeks, we've been able to exceed our wildest expectations, and have already filled 226 potholes! At this rate we should pass our goal in less than a month, with a few weeks to spare.

To chart the progress of the pothole program, simply click on the Pothole Program icon, which is in the shape of a shovel, on my webpage at [www.sandiego.gov/cd3](http://www.sandiego.gov/cd3).

To report a pothole for filling, call 619/527-7500.

## UPCOMING DISTRICT THREE COMMUNITY EVENTS

### *Adams Avenue Street Fair*

**Date/Time:** Saturday, September 28, 10am-10pm;  
Sunday, September 29, 10am-6pm

**Place:** Adams Avenue between Felton Street and 35th Street

**Contact:** Adams Avenue Business Association, 619/282-7329

### *AIDS Walk San Diego*

**Date/Time:** Sunday, October 6, 8am-2pm

**Place:** Sixth Avenue and Laurel Street, Balboa Park

**Contact:** 619/291-9255

### *Latin Pride*

**Date/Time:** Saturday, October 12, Noon to 10pm

**Place:** Park Blvd. and Presidents Way, Balboa Park

**Contact:** Bienestar, 619/295-2192



# Photo Gallery



Above: Councilmember Atkins was on hand with other local dignitaries as Governor Gray Davis signed AB 2156, a bill authored by Assemblymember Christine Kehoe allocating \$12 million for the revitalization of the San Diego River. Prior to signing the bill, Gov. Davis also announced a \$6 million grant for Balboa Park restoration projects (see story on page 1).



Councilmember Atkins joined Linda Katz and Paul Downey at the future home of Market Square Manor, a senior housing complex at 14th and Market streets, in downtown San Diego. The facility, which will house 200 seniors, will be operated by Senior Community Centers.



Above: To honor her commitment to the residents of Talmadge, and in particular the allocation of District Three Community Development Block Grant funds to the Talmadge Historic Gate Restoration Project, Talmadge Maintenance Assessment District Chair George Diefenthal presented Councilmember Atkins with a beautiful clock with a replica of one of the Talmadge Historic Gates. The presentation took place at the annual Talmadge Block Party.



Above: Councilmember Atkins presented a Council resolution to the San Diego Blood Bank commending them for being the first agency in the nation to fly blood to New York City after the attacks on the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001.



Above: Councilmember Atkins sponsored a Council resolution proclaiming September 18, 2002, to be "StrikeOut AIDS Night at the Ballpark Day" in honor of the HIV/AIDS education night held by local and national sponsors at Qualcomm Stadium prior to the Padres/Arizona Diamondbacks game. Pictured with Atkins are (l to r) Len Regan of Bourbon Street, Michael Mack of Club Montage, StrikeOut AIDS founder Matt Barasch, and Susan Van Veer of Agouran Pharmaceuticals.



Above: Councilmember Atkins with (l to r) State Assemblymember Christine Kehoe, San Diego Police Department Sgt. Gary Jaus, and Councilmember Donna Frye at the City's Patriots Day event on September 11, 2002.



Photos at left and right: Councilmember Atkins joined with other elected officials and residents at the City's official Patriots Day Commemoration at the Spreckels Organ Pavilion on September 11th.

